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FAIRIES
Charles K. Meschter

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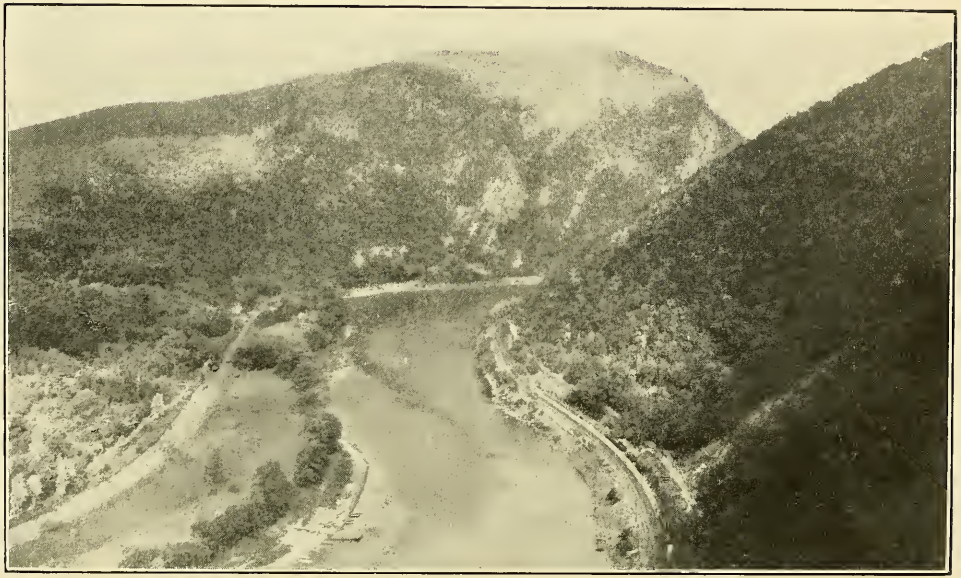
MOUNT MINSI FAIRIES



DELAWARE WATER GAP, MOUNT MINSI ON THE RIGHT, MOUNT TAMMANY ON THE LEFT

# MOUNT MINSI FAIRIES

CHARLES K. MESCHTER

BOSTON: RICHARD G. BADGER
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no 1.

*To*
*All children*
*and to all grown ups whose*
*life is still sweetened by*
*fairy fancy.*

MOUNT MINSI FAIRIES

# Mount Minsi Fairies

Where Mount Minsi looms so high
That it seems to touch the sky
There's a wooded rocky place
Peopled by a fairy race.

Here in laurel-scented June
When the deep light of the moon
Silvers glen and rock and tree
With its wondrous witchery
There is faintest noise and bustle,
Spears of grass make feeblest rustle;
Then a sentry calls out "Come!"
In Mount Minsi's fairydom.

## MOUNT MINSI FAIRIES

Many fairies trip and fly
To the trysting place that's nigh;
From their homes of woven grasses
Hurry little lads and lasses,
From their snowy toadstool tents
Hasten small inhabitants,
From snug niches in the rocks,
From stout limbs which lightning shocks.
Somewhere northward there's to be
That night glorious revelry.

## MOUNT MINSI FAIRIES

At the trysting place await
Curious coaches in great state;
Eagles' feathers found in rocks
Form the fairies' wagon box,
In the magic moonlight glint
Wheels cut from the mountain flint.
For coach horses, bumblebees
Lassoed in Mount Minsi's breeze—
Ten pairs prancing, strong, bewitched
To each gorgeous coach are hitched.
Harness wrought of threads of gold
Horse and coach together hold.
On these golden trappings toss
Plumes of dainty tufts of moss,
Little bells whose fine tones seem
Soft and sweet as in a dream.

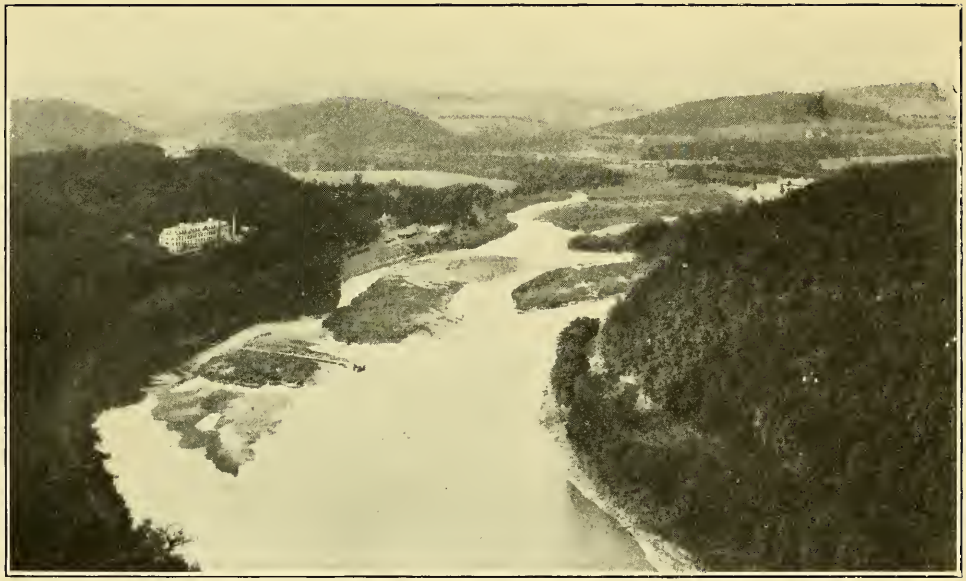
## MOUNT MINSI FAIRIES

Fairy feet make dainty clatter,
Round each coach there's tiny chatter;
At this merriment of voices
Minsi's great heart e'en rejoices.
Half a score of coaches wait,
In each fifty souls elate.
Now each driver in this train
Tightens up his golden rein,
Each bee with its ears atip
Listens for the word and whip.

Off—the wondrous cavalcade!
Off—upon their glorious raid!
Where the craggy ways are not
There these gaudy horses trot,
Where the road is rough and high
There these humming palfries fly.

Now they've reached The Promontory
Looming in the silver glory,
Where they linger and alight
To behold the rapturous sight;
Each wee heart with heaven fills
As they scan the vale and hills;
Back, they see Mount Minsi's crown
From the splendid stars look down;
Yonder, Tammany grand and pale
Gazes through his moonlight veil;
Far below, the waters twist
'Neath their coverlet of mist;
Far beyond, hills, sky, and stream
Melt together in a dream.

While these small hearts are elate
Five score bumblebees await;
While the fairies grow endearing
Bees are champing, pawing, rearing;
While the fairies sweetly twitter
Golden reins and traces glitter.



DELAWARE WATER GAP, VIEW FROM THE PROMONTORY

Coaches on the trail bowl by
With their steeds that run or fly,
Magic horses whose sweet hum
Cheers this jolly fairydom.
Soon the merry riders reach
A secluded lakelet's beach.
All immediately explore
Glinting waves and sandy shore.
For canoes each tarnward heaves
Turned up rhododendron leaves;
Butterflies are pilots brave
In this riot on the wave,
And unfurl in gentle gales
Their artistic wings for sails;
Captured fireflies give their light
That these ships may sail aright;
Laurel bells form canopies;
Cushions moss plucked from the trees.

Laughter chorus fine and rare
Echoes in the lakelet's air;
Dainty songs are heard, that seem
Floating from an oriole's dream.
Sleepy fish come up to see
All the wondrous riotry,
And at once in nightgowns play
Leapfrog to pass time away,
Some e'en from the water vault
Thrilling rainbow somersault;
E'en the sober timid trout
Acts as if he were a lout.

But all carnivals must end!
To the shore the boatmen wend;
Quickly flickering boatlights fly
To the underbrush near by;
In the night too disappear
Sails and faithful gondolier.

## MOUNT MINSI FAIRIES

By the brook the fairies talk,
Long Caldeno's stream they walk,
Often leap on mossy stones,
Listen to the streamlet's tones,
Sometimes rush beneath the spray
Shining in a moonlight ray,
Often on a leaf they glide
To the brooklet's farther side,
And again try catching fish
That in shallows dart and swish;
Sometimes by a laurel cluster
There is fairylovers' fluster.

What astounds them in their path!
They behold Diana's Bath
And observe a strange commotion
Fading from this classic ocean;
They surmise they've put to flight
That grace at her water rite.
Instantly the crowd is raving
On delights of seashore bathing
And without delay decide
Going in this sacred tide.
Into it some boldly dash,
On the edge some shyly splash,
Others are buoyed by the surf
Out upon the mossy turf,
Some bask far out on the beach
Where the wavelets never reach,
In the shadow suave addresses
Mix with lovers' warm caresses.
Fairies must be up and gone—
Matin gods, delay the dawn!

## MOUNT MINSI FAIRIES

Down the brook the fairies trip
Lightly as the dewdrops drip,
Lovingly they wend their way
Where Caldeno Falls display,
Here the elfins congregate
For their vaunted sumptuous fête.

## MOUNT MINSI FAIRIES

Here within the dell's expanse
There is dainty dizzy dance.
From the nooks and chinks around
Fairies come so gaily gowned:
Dresses made of sunset glow,
Others of the Gap rainbow,
Some created from the mist
Dyed with morning's amethyst,
Gorgeous gowns without a seam
Woven from a baby's dream;
Tiny jewels rich and rare
Sparkle in the moonlight air,
Glisten in bewitching tresses,
Lighten from enchanting dresses,
Flash from arms and turn the night
Into marvelous daylight.

For lights closely in a line
Fireflies gladly sit and shine;
For an orchestra ten frogs
Take their seats on sodden logs
And with white vests, coats of green,
Think their like has ne'er been seen.
Now their leader clears his throat,
Makes each player get his note,
And upon amphibious fiddles
They perform their music-riddles;
Every string is wildly twanged,
Frantically the bassdrum's banged:
Fairies so complexly twirl
Every frog's brain's in a whirl:
Like confusion in a trance
Is Caldeno's devious dance.

CALDENO FALLS.

## MOUNT MINSI FAIRIES

Every bird has left its bed
For the big trees overhead,
All the bees and butterflies
Come and open wide their eyes,
Bugs and insects almost fall
In the dell so near they crawl—
One poor June bug dressed in yellow
Broke his neck, pushed by a fellow.

Now the dancing's almost o'er,
There's a change, all clear the floor;
Jonah Frog steps forth and sings,
With his voice the forest rings;
With his great deep quavering bass
He's a genius 'mong his race:
Any mortal with that tone
Easily would stand alone.

### THE FROG'S SONG

*For Naomi my love*
*is like a grief,*
*For her my heart beats like*
*An aspen leaf.*

*Refrain*

*Ker chug, ker chug! A grassy rug*
*And the sky's blue make home for two.*
*Ker chug, ker chug!*

*Her love no other maid-*
*en can displace,*
*I show my sweetheart's love*
*upon my face.*

*For her my heart is like*
*a mountain oak,*
*For her all day and night*
*I croak and choke.*

*For Naomi I some-*
*times almost die,*
*For her I'll pluck a star*
*out of the sky.*

Strings again are wildly twanged
And the bassdrum's loudly banged.
Dancing over, night goes fast;
Glory waits as a repast.
Just beyond Caldeno's spray
Banquet boards are in array.
Round the boards attendants wait
In dress suit and pompous state,
Now the orchestra plays low
While the fairies march in slow,
Arms of each elf-man are laden
With a captivating maiden—
Each maid's splendor dulls the luster
Of her gems' and jewels' cluster,
And all tiny violets wear
On their breast and in their hair.
Several dapper lads, who found
Too few ladies to go round,
Stragglingly bring up the rear,
Feel and look a little queer.

Delicacies are growing higher,
Waiters move as jerked by wire;
Everything each fairy wishes
Is before him on the dishes.
Greedy bugs push toward the fare
Just as closely as they dare,
While in their orchestral seat
Sit the frogs and meekly eat.
Oh, how savory that meal
Where there 're friends and laughter-peal!
Hunger sated, 'tis made plain
Artists are to entertain—
One among them, 'tis averred,
Sings far finer than a bird.
(Hereupon birds nudge each other
And the bitterest feelings smother.)

Now the prima donna rises
And with song the night baptizes.

THE FAIRY'S SONG

*Where moss-shadows creep*
*And are cool and deep*
*All day I lie and dream and sleep.*

*When the night tolls ten*
*I am up again*
*To wend wild ways in hill and glen.*

*In the soft sweet spray*
*Down the brook's blithe way*
*I lightly flit and softly stray.*

*In Mount Minsi's gale*
*I sublimely sail*
*Until the mellow stars turn pale.*

Echo bares this song away
While it makes gay hearts more gay.

Ere they end their festal rite
All insist that one recite:
She consents reluctantly
To recite about the sea,
Telling of a youth who mourns
For a nymph that loves its storms.
Her rich voice sounds in the air
Grander than a hermit's prayer.

### THE MAID OF THE STORM

Upon a golden beach there lay
A hopeful youth one summer's day
While fragrance from the tropic lands
Was wafted to those seashore sands.

Just when the sun was dropping low,
When gulls flew wildly to and fro,
A fearful storm drew swiftly nigh
And pitched the breakers to the sky,
And hurled the sea against the rocks,
That shook the shore like earthquake shocks;
The frantic deep sprayed thick and far
And hid with mist the evening star:
Then from the foaming sea a form
Came dripping up—Maid of the Storm.

Her head was scarfed in flying mist,
Her robe was Neptune's amethyst,
Her locks shone like a comet's tail
That makes the brightest stars look pale,
Her cheeks and breast were like the white
That newly falls on winter's night,
And in her eyes of deepest blue
An endless universe shone through.
This mermaid's song then sounded clear
And reached the youth, brought heaven near.

### THE MERMAID'S SONG

*Down within this wild wide sea*
*Is the happy home for me,*
*Where the rich-hued fishes play*
*There I while the time away.*

*There's my sea-home built of pearl,*
*There the waters spout and swirl,*
*On a cliff of gold it stands*
*Sweeping leagues of watery lands.*

*Seagrass stretches on and on*
*To where mortals view the dawn,*
*For the stars of my rich night*
*Countless diamonds flash their light.*

*There are spires with pearly tips,*
*Domes where soothing water drips,*
*Chimes of seashells that sound far*
*Sweeter than all earth strains are.*

*Pretty mortal, couldst thou be*
*Happy down in my fine sea?*
*Fare thee well, I go away*
*Where my rich-hued fishes play.*

The sea grew calm, the clouds passed on,
The Maiden of the Storm was gone.
Each day the youth frequents that spot
To see the Maid who rises not.

From five-hundred hearts more light
Praises sound upon the night.
Since they scent the morning air
Fairies for their home prepare.
But the anguish on those faces
In the coils of love's embraces,
For in scores of little hearts
Fairy Cupid shot gold darts!

## MOUNT MINSI FAIRIES

By Caldeno's tiny strand
Coaches wait for Minsiland,
Once again in moonlight glint
Wheels cut from the mountain flint,
For the fairies so endearing
Bees are waiting, champing, rearing,
Golden reins and traces glitter
While the people fondly twitter,
Plumes of dainty tufts of moss
On the golden harness toss,
Little bells whose fine tones seem
Soft and low as in a dream.
Whips are cracked and coaches dash
Homeward like a lightning flash!
Every pretty elf has come
In Mount Minsi's fairydom.

From the mountains darkness rolled;
On them morning's molten gold.

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# MOUNT MINSI FAIRIES

Charles K. Meschter